PRESERVATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS,

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

AHMEDABAD.
POONA.
KARLI.
AMBARNATH.
ELEPHANTA.

5TH JULY 1881.

PRELIMINARY REPORT BY
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CURATOR OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN INDIA.

(Illustrated by two Diagrams and eight Rough Sketches.)

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(*Zincographed at the Intelligence Branch of the Quartermaster General's Office, Simla*).

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AHMEDABAD.

Accessibility of Ahmedabad.

1. My visit to Ahmedabad, 18th to 21st March last, enabled me to see many of the architectural remains of that very interesting and wonderful city. The opening of the Rajputana State Railway makes the place as easily accessible from the north as it is from the south; and the immediate and first tendency of the improved communication is to damage and misappropriate the picturesque and beautiful buildings of the city. Already one mosque (Mia Khan Chisti's, built A.D. 1465) is used as a residence; and signs are not wanting elsewhere of the readiness, on the part of both Natives and Europeans, to utilise ancient architectural memorials for domestic purposes. (See sketch No. 1.)

Necessity for conservation.

2. I submit that the most complete and proper care shold be taken of the Ahmedabad monuments. The city is distinctly one of the most picturesque and artistic in the whole of the Bombay Presidency, and the number of visitors is now greatly increased. Some of the old tombs and mosques have received repairs and attention, but the number of those that are maltreated is a deplorable condition urgently calling for systematic remedies.

Ahmedabad architecture.

3. The Saracenic architecture of Ahmedabad was inaugurated by Ahmed Shah in A.D. 1411, and, as elsewhere throughout India, the Muhammadans began by building out of materials taken from Hindu temples. The peculiarity of Ahmedabad architecture is, however, that the Hindu masons who built the later mosques and tombs adhered closely to indigenous forms instead of to those characteristic of the moslems, producing buildings with a larger admixture of Hindu or Jaina detail than is seen in other capitals founded by the followers of the Prophet. Added to this, the plans prescribed by the Muhammadans for their buildings imparted to the style a breadth of conception not generally displayed in Hindu architecture, and a singular elegance and character thus appeared in the structures the remains of which lie scattered in the city and the neighbourhood.

Publications.

4. Mr. James Fergusson, in his History of Indian and Eastern Architecture, has devoted a whole chapter to the architecture of Guzerat, of which Ahmedabad, for the last 450 years, has been the capital; and a volume, profusely illustrated by photo-

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graphs by Colonel Biggs, R.A., and with historical and descriptive sketches by Mr. T. C. Hope, and architectural notes by Mr. Fergusson, was published in 1866. The plan of Ahmedabad and its environs is taken from the latter work.

Ahmedabad. Publications.

5. Mr. Burgess, Archæological Surveyor in Bombay, visited Ahmedabad in October 1874 and reported on, transcribed and translated some of the inscriptions on the buildings (see Archæological Survey of Western India—Kathiawad and Kachh, 1876).

Archæological Survey.

6. The city walls were built by Sultan Ahmed I in 1412, and were in 1486 so strengthened and repaired by Mahmud Begurra as to make Ahmedabad one of the best defended cities in India. In the seventeenth century the walls were noticed with wonder and praise by almost all European travellers. During the disorders of the early part of the eighteenth century they fell into considerable decay, and in 1755 the rains were so heavy that in several places great gaps were created. In the same year Momin Khan put them in repair. But later on, in 1780, they were, near the Khan Jahan gate, breached by the British. After this gradually became so ruinous that carts and carriages could pass through, and the city was as unsafe as the suburbs, robberies and murders being common. In the early years of British management (1818-1825) complaints of the bad state of the walls were constant. In 1825 the Collector wrote:—"The city is on all sides open to thieves and robbers;" and in 1828 the circuit Judge drew attention to the state of the walls, urging that some of the city revenues should be set apart for their repair, but fearing that it was too late for any sufficient remedy. Shortly after this, chiefly by the exertions of Mr. H. Borradaile, the Collector, much public interest was taken in the restoration of the walls; a tax on clarified butter was levied, and in 1832, at a cost of £25,000, they were thoroughly repaired.* If Ahmedabad is as alive to its interests now as it was under the guidance of Mr. Borradaile, *the whole place would be placed in a complete state of preservation, and every architectural monument would have its responsible guardian.*

Ahmedabad walls.

7. The following accounts of buildings and recommendations for remedial

* See Bombay Gazetteer of Ahmedabad, page 267.

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Ahmedabad.

measures are in the order in which my visits were made :—

Sidi Syad's Mosque in the "Bhaddar"—(marked No. 1 on plan).

Sidi Syad's Mosque.

8. This very beautiful building is at the north-east corner of the Bhaddar, and was built by Sidi Syad, a slave of Ahmed Shah (A.D. 1411). The Mahrattas desecrated it; and it is now used as a mamlatdar's kacheri, for which purpose the front openings have been bricked up, the inner columns whitewashed, and the beautiful marble windows of perforated tracery (see sketch No. 7) filled from inside with plaster. The roof consists of a series of small domes beautifully and fancifully corbelled.

9. *The clearing and cleaning of its disfigurements and impedimenta are urgent remedies which I strongly recommend to Government;* but, to place the building in a suitable condition, an office will have to be provided for the mamlatdar.

Ahmed Shah's Mosque in the "Bhaddar"—A.D. 1414 (marked No. 2 on the plan).

Ahmed Shah's Mosque.

10. This is constructed out of Hindu columns put together with an irregularity similar to that observable at the Kutb Mosque near Delhi and at the mosques at Mandu in Malwa.

11. The interior is roofed in by a series of domes of the Jaina type, and on one side (to the right facing the west), enclosed by stone traceries, is a raised floor, evidently intended for the ladies of the palace. The *mehrab* in the centre of the west wall of the mosque has an inscription above it. On the right is a marble pulpit. The whole of the interior is very dirty. Some of the domes show signs of leakage; *to remedy this, they want repair outside, and vegetation should be removed.* In front of the building is a grave mound, where repose the bodies of those who were killed in the fight against the Hindus. The mosque is no *longer in use, and should at least be in custody and kept clean.*

The Tin Darwaza (marked No. 3 on plan).

The Tin Darwaza.

12. This is a fine gateway in the city, and used to be an entrance to an enclosure in front of the Bhaddar gate. In 1877 some repairs were executed, and a hideous roof removed from the upper terrace.

The Jama Masjid (marked No. 4 on plan).

The Jama Masjid.

13. This is an enclosure measuring about 400 feet by 250 feet, the mosque at the west end being about 200 feet by 90 feet. It is a handsome building (see

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sketch No. 2); but the minarets flanking the central arch were overturned by an earthquake in 1819. The interior is particularly striking with its colonnade of fine pillars, zenana gallery with tracery, and numerous domes of the Jain type.

Ahmedabad.
Jama Masjid.

14. The *mehrab* is of marble, very effectively inlaid with stone, and has a marble inscription above it (dated 4th January 1424 A.D.). There is an upper gallery round the central portion of the mosque, which gives height and grandeur to that part of the building. Unfortunately all the stone columns and walls have been whitewashed. *The whitewash should be removed.* The tank in the centre of the courtyard of the mosque has been very unsuitably roofed over with corrugated iron.

Ahmed Shah's Tomb [*repaired A.D.* 1537—38] *(marked No.* 5 *on plan).*

Ahmed Shah's Tomb.

15. This building, to the east of the Jama Masjid, is a massive edifice with a dome, and has windows of tracery, the ornament of which is particularly effective and handsome. There are some good brass doors to the tomb entrances. *The whole place, which is extremely dirty, should be cleaned and placed in proper custody: vegetation requires removing from the roof; and the rear verandah, which has been ruthlessly bricked up for some wretched squatter, should be cleared.*

Tombs of Ahmed Shah's Wives (marked No. 6 *on plan).*

Tombs of Ahmed Shah's Wives.

16. Near Ahmed Shah's tomb stands the enclosure which contains the graves and tombs of the Ranis. It consists of a basement raised some 9 or 10 feet above the ground, with a surrounding colonnade screened from the outside by stone tracery of great variety and elaboration. In the court, which is open to the sky, there are several tombs of marble, beautifully wrought in ornamental bands of sculpture; and the monument to Murki Bibi, a favourite wife, has an inlay of black marble and mother-of-pearl. *These are beautiful works of art, thoroughly appropriate to their object, and should be completely restored.*

17. A great deal of damage is done to the cloister, its marble terrace, and to the tombs, by trees and creepers; whilst slabs of marble have in many instances been utterly displaced. *The whole of the damaging vegetation should be outrooted.* The enclosure is surrounded by filthy native houses, and great squalor prevails,

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the removal of which would do much good to this remarkable building. There should be a custodian here and the place kept clean.

Dustur Khan's Mosque [*A.D. Circa,* 1486] *(marked No.* 7 *on plan).*

Dustur Khan's Mosque.

18. Mahmud Begurra's minister, Dustúr Khan, built a remarkably elegant mosque in the southern quarter of the city, and surrounded it with a colonnade of pillars supporting small semi-circular domes, and enclosed by perforated stone tracery. The screen-work is very varied and bold in design; but unfortunately some one has thought proper to whitewash the building; *and until this is removed and the place cleaned up, its beauty is greatly obscured.* Beneath the courtyard is a subterranean reservoir 75 feet square, vaulted over with masonry. The building should be in custody.

Rani Sipri's Mosque and Mausoleum [*see sketch No.* 3] *(marked No.* 8 *on plan).*

Rani Sipri's Mosque and Tomb.

19. The memorials of the wife of Ahmed Shah's son stand inside and near the Astodia gate of the city, and were built in A.D. 1511—1526. Both buildings are of singular elegance, and delicately wrought with carvings and perforated screen-work. The mosque measures 55 feet by 20 feet, and has two flanking minarets, 50 feet high, gracefully tapered and enriched with architectural ornament. A pair of united bracket windows at the end facing the street gives a picturesque appearance to the exterior, and are as good examples of this class to be found anywhere in India. The three *mehrabs* inside the building are of white marble, daintily carved, and are worthy of illustration in detail as fine specimens of this particular kind of mosque ornament. *The interior of the mosque is not as clean or properly taken care of as the building deserves.* The Rani's tomb is an elevated square building with a semi-circular dome, and surrounded by a low verandah with a splendidly incised plinth and enclosed with tracery. *Vegetation on the dome and roof should be removed, and the building put in repair and kept in proper custody.*

Illustrations wanted.

Shah Alam (marked No. 9 on plan).

Shah Alam.

20. The Pir, Shah Alam, son of Kutb-ul-Alam, the saint of Butwa, was buried in A. D. 1475 in a handsome tomb 3 miles from Ahmedabad. After his interment, the place acquired other edifices, and was

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enclosed by a high wall. The tomb is square in plan, surmounted by a dome, and enclosed by a verandah with beautiful stone trellis-work. The central apartment, in which rests the actual tomb, is surrounded by a second row of screens; and the tomb is covered by a wooden canopy exquisitely inlaid with mother-of-pearl. The interior of the dome is handsomely painted in fresco, and the floor is of marble. A marble fence or low screen encircles the canopy. The outer verandah has an entrance on each of its four sides, fitted with sliding doors of ornamentally-pierced brass plates. At one corner of the tomb are buried the children of Shah Alam. Great variety and fancy are displayed in the patterns of the stone and marble screen-work which encloses the outer verandah and the inner tomb. The building is now in fair order, considerable attention having been bestowed on it by Mr. Borradaile, c.s., late Collector of Ahmedabad.

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Shah Alam.

Mausoleum of Mai Alam at Shah Alam (see No. 9 on plan).

Tomb of Mai Alam.

21. This tomb is one of the buildings in the Shah Alam enclosure, but is plainer than that of the saint. *The surrounding courtyard requires weeding, and vegetation should be completely outrooted from the building as well as from the terrace.*

Shah Alam Mosque (see No. 9 on plan).

Shah Alam Mosque.

22. The mosque has two fine minarets at either extremity of the façade. The interior is a colonnade of three rows of six pillars roofed over with domes and covings. The masonry is unfortunately disfigured by a layer of whitewash, *which should be removed*, and the place is rendered still more unattractive by numerous swarms of bees in the domes.

The Kankria Tank (marked No. 10 on plan).

Kankria Tank.

23. About a mile from Ahmedabad to the south-east of the city is this fine reservoir, surrounded by masonry steps for a circumference of a mile, and with pavilions and a handsome supply sluice. In the centre is a small garden and baradari connected by a masonry causeway. *The place is well worth caring for and keeping in order.*

Sidi Busir's Mosque and Tomb (marked No. 11 on plan).

Sidi Busir's Tomb.

24. The ruined tomb and still more ruined mosque of Sidi Busir are buildings well

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Sidi Busir's Tomb.

worthy of being preserved from further decay. The archway and minarets are all that remain erect of the mosque, and their handsome proportions and the variety in the stone ornaments render them valuable examples of the Ahmedabad style. The tomb is occupied by natives, and presents a disgraceful picture of dirt and neglect. *The place should be cleared and cleaned, and what remains of the buildings ought to be repaired.* The date of these edifices is not known for certain, but they belong probably to the reign of Mahmud Begurra.

Haibut Khan's Mosque (marked No. 12 *on plan).*

Haibut Khan's Mosque.

25. This is an instance of the way in which the materials of desecrated Hindu shrines were utilised for the purposes of the Muhammadans. The interior colonnade has pillar shafts of all varieties of Hindu ornament, raised one above the other to suit the plan on which the masjid was designed. Built at the time that Ahmedabad was first established, it is not only a monument of historic value, but shews how the local style developed itself architecturally.

Azam Khan's Palace (marked No. 13 *on plan).*

Azam Khan's Palace.

26. Azam Khan in A.D. 1636 caused this building to be erected; subsequently it was used as a college, but in 1820 underwent conversion by our Government into a jail, and up to the present time carpets, durris, cloths and basket-work are manufactured by prisoners. The entrance gateway has a handsome dome with ingenious and effective cuspings. Below the dome is an underground chamber or taikhana approached by four staircases. This apartment served as a retreat during hot weather, and has in its centre a fountain, around which the inmates of the palace sat or slept in cool seclusion. The conversion of the palace buildings into a jail has destroyed their design and character; but the place is interesting, and its architectural appearance could be easily restored in drawings.

Drawings wanted.

Sirkhej (marked No. 14 *on plan).*

Sirkhej.

27. Across the Sabarmati River, and about 5 miles south-west of Ahmedabad, is the village of Sirkhej, to which the friend and counsellor of Ahmed Shah, Ganj Buksh, retired to, and died in A.D. 1445. A tomb and mosque were here erected by

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Kutub Shah in A.D. 1451, and Mahmud Begurra made the locality a resort, built the large tank and palace, and erected a mausoleum for himself and his queen Raj Bai.

Ahmedabad.
Sirkhej.

Tomb and Mosque of Ganj Buksh at Sirkhej (see No. 14 on plan).

Tomb and Mosque of Ganj Buksh.

28. The tomb of the saint, said to be largest of its kind in Guzerat, is about 130 feet square in plan; the central apartment is surmounted by a flat dome, and the verandah covered with a series of smaller ones. Round the tomb itself is a screen of ornamentally-pierced brass, and the entrance is decorated with mosaics of colored glass and minor work ("shish"). The exterior of the verandah is entirely filled with windows of perforated stone, and the floor of the verandah is of marble slabs. The masonry of the whole of the building is literally smothered with whitewash, and *unless the removal of this barbarous disfigurement can be arranged for, the building will never be seen to advantage, or be worthily treated.* In front of the tomb is a handsome pavilion of lofty pillars surmounted by nine small semi-circular domes. The vandal who whitewashed Ganj Buksh's tomb gave this also a good coating, and *its removal should not be lost sight of* when merciful remedies are undertaken at Sirkhej. The mosque consists of a domed colonnade, measuring about 200 feet by 80 feet, with a courtyard surrounded by a verandah to the east, measuring about 200 feet square. The pillars in the mosque itself are lofty and handsome, and the whole effect of the building would be stately and pleasing if the inevitable whitewash had not been liberally applied. *It covers the columns of the verandah round the court and the columns of the building of the mosque itself, and should be taken off.* A handsome pulpit, the king's seat, and the marble mehrab adorn the interior; but the raised gallery for the ladies of the palace has been looted of its screen-work.

Tomb of Mahmud Begurra and his Queen Raj Bai at Sirkhej (see No. 14 on plan).

Tomb of Mahmud Begurra.

29. These buildings overlook the large tank at Sirkhej, and are divided by a porch which is now disfigured by whitewash and blue paint. The tomb of Mahmud Begurra is a domed building surrounded with windows of stone trellis-work. It contains his tombstone and those of his sons, all of which are very handsome and

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Tomb of Mahmud Begurra.

of white marble. The floor of the building is of black and white marble, *but no care is taken to keep the place clean, and the neglect and the whitewash which, as elsewhere, is omnipotent, render the place unattractive in spite of its good design and ornamental details.*

The Tomb of Bibi Raj Bai at Sirkhej (see No. 14 *on plan).*

Tomb of Bibi Raj Bai.

30. This contains three tombstones handsomely carved, but the building is neither so large nor so well decorated as that of Mahmud; and, as far as I could ascertain, the interior columns and screen-work are of plaster.

The Sirkhej Tank (see No. 14 *on plan).*

Sirkhej Tank.

31. The walls of the various buildings require careful examination, *and the numerous creepers and prolific vegetation which appear between the joints of the masonry should be utterly destroyed.* The porch in the southern colonnade of the mosque of Ganj Buksh is particularly threatened with destructive overgrowth, and its great beauty demands that so simple a matter as the cutting out of roots should be undertaken without delay. The ruins of the palace, waste weir of the tank and supply sluice require periodical attention of the same kind; but there is a small mosque on the eastern side of the tank which is bricked up, neglected, and *should be cleaned out.*

The Tomb of Azam Khan and Mozam Khan (see No. 14*a on plan).*

Tomb of Azam Khan and Mozam Khan.

32. This is a brick building on the road between Ahmedabad and Sirkhej, and is said to contain the remains of the two architects of Sirkhej. Its peculiarity lies in its great massiveness resembling the sloping bastioned architecture of Tugklugkabad near Delhi.

Syud Usman's Tomb and Mosque [*see sketch No.* 4] *(see No.* 15 *on plan).*

Syud Usman's Tomb and Mosque.

33. On the opposite bank of the river Sabarmati, and about a mile from Ahmedabad, are the mosque and tomb of Syud Usman, which Mahmud Begurra built in A.D. 1460. The beautiful tomb building, although now so disgracefully neglected and maltreated, played a part when the subject of Indian architecture excited interest in Europe at the time of the Paris Exhibition of 1867; and the illustrations in Mr. Hope's Ahmedabad Book

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Syud Usman's Tomb.

afforded to the British Commissioner suggestions for a building which had for exhibition purposes to be extremely open and airy.

34. It was mainly due to the attention given at this Exhibition by the Science and Art Department to the subject of Indian architecture (by means of various illustrations and partly by photographs collected by Mr. Fergusson) that public interest awakened to the importance of collecting information on the subject. In fact in 1868, at the instance of the Science and Art Department, a representation was made by the British Government to the Government of India to conserve and record the most remarkable of the ancient monuments throughout the whole country. Later on sanction was obtained to survey parties for Bengal, Madras, Bombay and the North-Western Provinces, which ultimately led to the appointment of Archæological Surveyors under the Government of India and under the Governments of Madras and Bombay.

35. The tomb is 80 feet square, and the mode by which the central dome is supported on columns gives a picturesque variety to the interior, and renders the design altogether the most successful of all those to be seen in Ahmedabad. The interiors of both the large central and four smaller domes over the sides of the building are beautifully ornamented after the Jaina style, and are well worthy of illustration by drawing or photography. The columns are of a simple Hindu pattern, and their number and peculiar arrangement would give the interior an effect of propriety and dignity if the building was treated with any respect.

Illustrations wanted.

36. The adjoining mosque is remarkable for its minarets which, although of more than ordinary simplicity for Ahmedabad, are graceful in outline and effectively ornamented. *Both mosque and tomb were during my late visit enclosed by a hedge of thorns, the interior space being used as a cattle-yard by a native cultivator who lived in the tomb, and had enclosed a corner of the building with mud walls. Cows were at an opposite corner surrounded with dung, straw and dirt. Piles of fodder filled up the space over the tombs; vegetation was destroying the roofs of both mosque and tomb. The marble mehrab of the former as well as its marble floor had been removed bodily, and the whole place was a scene of greater desolation than I can describe. The obvious remedies are to clear the place of cultivator, cattle and jungle, and*

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Syud Usman's Tomb.

to put the two monuments in proper custody, and to repair the roofs which now leak violently. When this is done, the buildings should be fenced round with a simple iron railing to keep off cattle.

Syud Alam's Mosque (see No. 16 *on plan).*

Syud Alam's Mosque.

37. In the north-west quarter of the city stands the mosque of Syud Alam. Built in Ahmed Shah's time, it is an early, although plain, example of how the style developed itself. Its plan and proportions are good, and all the columns and various parts of the structure were made expressly for it, and not taken out of a Hindu temple and adapted. The building was during my visit under repair by the Public Works Department.

The Shahapur Mosque (see No. 17 *on plan).*

Shahapur Mosque.

38. This mosque is in the north of the city, and although small and unfinished, is one of the most ornate buildings in Ahmedabad. It was built in A.D. 1565, but the minarets were never completed. The tracery in their lower parts are most beautifully designed and executed. The frontage has a range of pointed arches, over which is an upper storey encircling the dome. *The interior is partly white-washed, and the building is dirtily kept, whilst the roof is covered with vegetation. All this might with propriety be remedied.*

The Achut Bibi Mosque (see No. 18 *on plan).*

The Achut Bibi Mosque.

39. About a mile to the north of Ahmedabad is the tomb and enclosure of the wife of one of Ahmed Shah's Wazirs. The minarets which once adorned the entrances to the ground and the great archway of the mosque have been ruined, wholly in the first case, and partly in the second, by the earthquake of 1819.

The façade of the edifice is handsome, the carving of the lower parts of the minarets being most appropriately and elaborately ornamented. *To restore the buildings would entail great cost, but to clear them of dirt and debris, and to arrest further decay by the removal of vegetation, and by stopping cracks in the masonry with cement, is a work worthy of being sanctioned, and for which the necessary expense would not be excessive. The buildings should be in custody.*

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Darya Khan's Tomb (see No. 19 on plan).

Darya Khan's Tomb.

40. This simple and massively constructed building dates from A.D. 1453, and is near the Achut Bibi's mosque. Its dome is the largest in Guzerat, and entirely of brick. The walls and verandah are of the same material; but owing probably to the same earthquake that brought about the ruin of the Achut mosque, the verandah arches are badly cracked. The interior of the building is spacious and lofty, and a canopied tombstone occupies its centre. *The place, which is very dirty, requires cleaning, and should be in suitable custody.*

Mia Khan Chisti's Mosque (see No. 20 on plan).

Mia Khan Chisti's Mosque.

41. This ornate building, erected in A.D. 1465, is near the Sabarmati River, north of the city. Like other buildings of its class at Ahmedabad, it has two handsome minarets flanking a central arch. The railway officials have converted it into a residence.

The Shahi Bagh (see No. 21 on plan).

Shahi Bagh.

42. About a mile and a quarter north of Ahmedabad, and on the banks of the river, is the Shahi Bagh or Royal Garden built in 1622 by Shah Jahan, then Viceroy of Ahmedabad, in order to give work during a famine. Mandelslo describes the Shahi Bagh as being in 1638 very large, shut in by a great wall with ditches full of water, a beautiful house and very rich rooms.

In 1666 Thevenot found the king's garden full of trees and the resort of all the young people of the city. The palace building is now used as a residence by the Assistant Judge. The flood of 1875 destroyed the garden beds.

The Queen's Mosque in Mirzapur (see No. 22 on plan).

Queen's Mosque in Mirzapur.

43. Near the traveller's bungalow on the road to the Delhi gate is the Queen's mosque, built probably A.D. 1430-1440. The building is 105 feet long, 46 feet broad, and 32 feet high. It takes its names from two ladies of Ahmad Shah's household whose tombs are close by. One, Rupavati, was by birth a Hindu. The minarets, although broken by the earthquake in 1819, are the chief beauty of the mosque. Their bases are exceedingly elaborate and full of the most graceful foliated ornament. Projecting bracketted windows are another handsome feature in the façade. The tomb is a good looking building, and has been repaired

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Queen's Mosque in Mirzapur.

by the Public Works Department. The central and four flanking domes are supported on columns, the whole being open on all four sides. The insides of the domes are richly fretted. The mosque is still under repair; but the work is incomplete, and *the stone carvings would be much improved by cleaning.* The censer and chain is a conspicuous ornament, and appears in the mehrabs of the west wall of the interior as well as in the minarets. *When the repairs are complete, the two buildings should be in custody.*

The Shah Khub-ki-Masjid.

The Shah Khub-ki-Masjid.

44. This is a small building in the city near the main street, and close to a highly carved and picturesque wooden pigeon cot (see sketch No. 6). There are four ranges of eight columns, the facade being flanked by two thin minarets. *The rain leaks badly in the roof; this requires remedy, and the place should be cared for.*

Kutb Shah's Mosque.

Kutb Shah's Mosque.

45. This building is in the city on the road to, and near the Delhi gate. It nearly escaped mutilation, because the municipality wanted to straighten the road! It was built by Kutb-ud-din in A.D. 1446, and has a façade of 5 arches, the central flanked, as usual, by minarets which have been clumsily repaired. The mehrab inside is of white marble well sculptured, the top being inlaid with colored marble. *The mosque is used for storing bales of cotton, so is the tomb close by—a proceeding which ought to be stopped, and a proper custodian placed in charge.*

Muhafiz Khan's Mosque [*see sketch No.* 5] *(marked No.* 25 *on plan).*

Muhafiz Khan's Mosque.

46. Muhafiz Khan's mosque is in the north division of the city, and was built in 1465. It has three ranges of arches flanked by minarets of great beauty in design and sculpture. The arches are edged with carved work, and above each arch is a small bracket window. The interior pillars support two domes, which are highly enriched. There is a gallery above filled with elaborate tracing. The pulpit and five mehrabs are elaborately carved, and the whole building is second to none in beauty. Repairs are being executed by the Public Works Department, and when completed the building *should only be accessible through a proper and responsible custodian.*

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Dada Harir's Well (marked No. 26 on plan).

Dada Harir's Well.

47. About a mile north-east of Ahmedabad is Dada Harir's well, built in A.D. 1485 by a lady of the household of Mahmud Begurrā. At the ground level it is 196 feet long and 40 wide. It is a singularly beautiful architectural work, and the second best of its kind in Guzerat. The finest is at a place called Adalaj near Ahmedabad. The structure consists of flights of steps and galleries descending to the water. These are ornamented with columns and niches highly carved, and the effect of the vista from one end to the other of the Baori is most picturesque. *The place is now much neglected. The well itself wants cleaning as the water gets fouled, and vegetation should be removed from the masonry walls.*

Minarets of a Mosque at the Railway Station (marked No. 27 on plan).

Minarets at the Railway Station.

48. These minarets are the tallest in Ahmedabad, but all traces of the mosque and of its history are for the time lost; the lower parts of the towers are damaged, and the repair of them by the railway authorities would be a graceful act.

49. I was unable to see the following buildings, but hope to visit Ahmedabad again in a short time :—

	No. on the plan.
Malik Alam's Mosque.	(No. 28)
Butwa.	(No. 29)
Queen's Mosque in Sarangpúr.	(No. 30)
Mosque of Muhammad Ghaus.	(No. 31)
Mir Abu Turab's Tomb.	(No. 32)
Baba Lului's Mosque.	(No. 33)
Tombs of the Dutch.	(No. 34)
Shah Wajih-ud-din's Tomb.	(No. 35)
The Svami Narayan Temple.	(No. 36)
Hatising's Temple.	(No. 37)

Domestic architecture.

50. One of the best features of Ahmedabad is its domestic architecture. The town is full of highly carved wooden house fronts, small temples, pigeon houses and the like, which for variety and picturesque beauty cannot be surpassed by the best specimens of wooden architecture in Normandy and Cheshire (see sketch No. 6). *I venture to suggest that estimates for the various restorations and repairs here recommended be called for, and that a requisite number of custodians be appointed to take charge of the buildings specified.*

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Poona.

POONA.

Rock-cut Temple near Ganesh Khind (see diagram).

Rock-cut Temple near Ganesh Khind.

51. On the road to Ganesh Khind and a little to the west is a curious temple to Shiva. Mr. Fergusson says of it:—"One more illustration must conclude what we have at present to say of Hindu rock-cut temples. It is found near Poona and is very little known, though much more appropriate to cave architecture than most examples of its class. The temple itself is a pillared hall with apparently ten pillars in front, and probably had originally a structural Sikra built on the upper plateau to mark the position of the sanctuary. The most original part of it is the Nandi pavilion, which stands in the courtyard in front of the temple. It is circular in plan, and its roof, which is a great slab of rock, is supported by apparently sixteen square pillars of very simple form" (see page 447 of *History of India and Eastern Architecture*).

The illustration in Fergusson's book gives an impression of much greater size than is actually the case, and being thus prepared, I at first found some difficulty in identifying the place.

The circular mandapam is of solid stone, but four columns have fallen. The resident Brahmins called the temple "Panch Panduaki Dewal." The fallen stonework could be reset at a moderate cost.

Temple of Parvati.

Temple of Parvati.

52. Picturesquely situated on a hill south of the city of Poona is the temple of Parvati, built by the Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao in A.D. 1749. As an example of architecture of this date the building is not without interest, and should ultimately find a place among illustrations of Indian architecture. It has an endowment of Rs. 1,500, and seems to be in fair order.

KARLI CAVES.

(*See sketch.*)

Karli Caves.

53. Karli is a small railway station on the way from Poona to Khandala. The caves are on a hill about two miles north of the station. Full description is given in *Cave Temples of India* by Fergusson and Burgess. The ascent to the great cave is very steep, and rises 600 feet above the plain. At the foot of the hill is a small village called Vihergang—meaning probably the "village of the Viharas,"

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Karli.

and thus bearing collateral testimony to the Buddhist origin of the caves. It is generally agreed that the age of the Karli Cave is antecedent to the Christian era. It is the largest chaitya cave in India, its interior dimensions being 124 feet 3 inches long by 45 feet 6 inches; the width of the centre aisle is 25 feet 7 inches (see diagram taken from Fergusson's *History of India and Eastern Architecture*). The wooden ribs of the roof remain entire, and the circular screen of wood filling up a portion of the great arch in front has been replaced (over A). The columns of the central aisle have elaborate capitals, and the walls of the vestibule at A D are decorated with bas-relief of figure subjects. The temple to the goddess Bhawani at the entrance (C) has a hideous roof of sheet-iron. The horse-shoe arch at A has been bricked up and fitted with an unsightly door frame and door, whereas a simple iron bar gate would answer the purpose better and not interfere with appearances.

The Buddhist Dagoba inside the temple at B has been colored by the Hindus, who worship it as a Lingam; but they have no business in the place, and ought to be prevented from using paint and whitewash on the walls and sculptures. The lighting of cooking fires in the cave should also be stopped. Whitewash and paint should be removed, and the temple delivered over to a custodian. The rock above the Bhawani temple at C is cracked, and the dangerous piece should be removed. A pipal tree, which has struck root at the same place, should also be eradicated. The caves of Bhaja and Bedsa are near Karli, the former two miles south of Karli, and the latter five and a half miles east of Bhaja.

AMBARNATH.

Ambarnath.

54. Four and a half miles from Kalyan junction on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway is the temple of Ambarnath in a pretty valley on the edge of the river Wadhwan. The temple, Mr. Burgess says, dates from A.D. 1060, and is an interesting example of Hindu architecture. Although in a ruinous state, it is still of great beauty. Casts and drawings were made in 1868 by the Superintendent of the School of Art, Bombay; and as far as illustration is concerned, all that is necessary has been done; provided the illustrations are still available. The temple is dedicated to Shiva and is wholly of stone: it measures 87½ feet from east to west and 68 feet from north

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Ambarnath. to south. The sanctum is reached by steps, and the roof over it has falln in. The body of the temple, *i.e.*, the adytum, is very fine; the columns are elaborately sculptured, and the construction of the roof is massive. The side aisles of the adytum are coved and the lintels between columns are in many places dangerously broken. There are porches on the north, south and west sides, all very elaborate in design and execution. The exterior of the temple is as rich in ornament as the interior. *The pipal trees in the roof should be out-rooted.* An enclosing wall with cells formerly surrounded the building; now only part remains, and the enclosed space is strewn with carved stone fragments. *These should be collected so as to be seen, and the whole area cleaned up. The interior of the temple should be made secure by strengthening the broken stone-work with iron cramps, and the roofs should be rendered impervious to rain by filling in the cracks with cement. The place should be in custody, and it would facilitate this if a rough stone wall could be built round the edifice to keep off intruders.*

CAVES OF ELEPHANTA.

Elephanta. 55. These caves are in the charge of Lieutenant W. W. Robinson, R.E., Executive Engineer of the Bombay Defences, who accompanied me to see them in March last. His predecessor, Captain Haydon, R.E., obtained the necessary sanction for a resident custodian, who keeps them clean, and receives the fees paid by visitors. The place is consequently better cared for than any of its class in India. Mr. Burgess, Archæological Surveyor of Bombay, has published an account of the caves, which are therefore well known and frequently visited. The fees paid by visitors more than cover the expense of care and custody.

H. H. COLE, *Captain, R.E.,*
Curator of Ancient Monuments in India.

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